

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, ID

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN RECOVERY OF FUNDS

1. AMBASSADOR IN RECENT CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER WAS ASKED BY FOREIGN MINISTER TO ASSIST PRESIDENT-DIRECTOR OF P T KARKAM, MR TEUKU MARKAM, RECOVER FUNDS PURPORTEDLY OWED HIM BY H A ASTLETT AND COMPANY, 20 NEW DUTCH LANE, FAIRFIELD, NEW JERSEY. MARKAM ARRESTED IN 1966 FOLLOWING CHANGE IN GOVERNMENTS AND RELEASED FROM PRISON SOME SEVEN YEARS LATER. MARKAM'S COMPANY AT THAT TIME HAD BEEN SHIPPING AMONG OTHER THINGS SHEET RUBBER TO ASTLETT. BECAUSE OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROLS CERTAIN EXTRA LEGAL PRACTICES WERE FOLLOWED BY MARKAM AND ASTLETT WHICH INVOLVED UNDERINVOICING THE VALUE OF THE EXPORTS, WITH THE DIFFERENCE IN THE TRUE VALUE TO BE DEPOSITED TO MARKAM'S ACCOUNT IN US HONG KONG BANK.

2. SINCE ASTLETT WAS AWARE OF MARKAM'S INCARCERATION, HE REPORTEDLY DID NOT TRANSFER THE MONEY SINCE HE WAS NOT SURE THAT IT WOULD EVER REACH MARKAM. MARKAM HAD BEEN AND IS CONTINUING TO DEAL WITH MR SAM DANIEL WHO WAS ASTLETT'S FORMER REPRESENTATIVE IN JAKARTA. DANIEL IS NOW AMONG OTHER THINGS THE LOCAL REP OF ACLI INTERNATIONAL, INC WITH HEADQUARTERS AT 110 WALL
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STREET, NEW YORK AND HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO

ASSIST MARKAM IN THE RECECOVERY OF THE MONIES
REPORTEDLY OWED HIM BY ASTLETT. DANIEL SHOWED
EMBASSY OFFICER EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH
J G PATTERSON, PRESIDENT OF ASTLETT, IN WHICH
INITIALLY ASTLETT REFUSED EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE PREVIOUS
TRANSACTIONS. DANIEL HAS LEARNED THROUGH THIRD
PART OF ASTLETT CLAIM THAT U.S. LAW REQUIRES THAT SUCH
FUNDS AS THOSE OWED MARKAM BE CONSIDERED INCOME
AFTER SEVEN YEARS AND TAXES PAID; AS RESULT
ASTLETT UNWILLING PAY MARKAM THESE FUNDS.
LATER CORRESPONDENCE, HOWEVER, INDICATES THAT
ASTLETT MAY BE WILLING TO MAKE THE NECESSARY
TRANSFERS. FOR HIS PART, MARKAM WHO SAYS HE
IS OWED SOME \$200,000 ON THIS TRANSACTION, IS NOT
ASKING FOR ANY INTEREST AND IS EVEN WILLING TO
CONSIDER SOME REDUCTION IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT,
ACCORDING TO DANIEL.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE THROUGH ITS NEAREST FIELD OFFICE ASK ASTLETT
ITS VIEWS ON ABOVE MATTER AND, IF MARKAM'S CLAIM
HAS VALIDITY, REQUEST ASTLETT AT LEAST OPEN
NEGOTIATION WITH MARKAM. EMBASSY WOULD NOT NORMALLY
REQUEST THIS SERVICE AND HAS DONE SO ONLY BECAUSE
OF SPECIAL INTEREST EXPRESSED BY INDONESIA'S
FOREIGN MINISTER.
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